

## ANT-XXIX/3 Weekly Report No. 8

March 11 - 17, 2013

**Last samples, all done, packing, cleaning, writing-up - goodbye!**

Indeed, the headline describes quite well the last day of this expedition. We were lucky with the weather in the Drake Passage and were able to complete our alternative working program to the very final station. There was no down-time due to bad weather. During the last night, the winds picked up significantly but OFOS managed to successfully complete the last station. After this, Thorsten, Matthias, Yoshi, Svenja, Matthias and Andreas under the supervision from Mike sampled a last oceanographic transect. The transect was designed to trace water masses from the Larsen area on the western side of the Antarctic Peninsula. At the famous 'last CTD' which was appropriately acknowledged, the chief scientist, with due respect, had to mention that this heavily used equipment has never failed. This was certainly due to good technical maintenance. In former times, this was, however, not always the case.

From now on, for most people on board, there is only one thing left to do – packing. For me, I have to add, there is still a second task – compiling the cruise report. Rumors tell that you are only allowed to leave the ship after you have handed in the cruise report to the chief scientist. So far, it has always worked out and I am confident that this will also be the case this time. In addition, there are of course a lot of small chores: cleaning of the labs, cleaning of the sauna, returning the polar clothes (when will we need them again?) and the last sale of sweets, beverages and souvenirs. When we finally can smell the land, also the communication will be cut off. Then the harbor in Punta Arenas is very near. Those who is well equipped will be able to use the mobile phones. Due to logistic circumstances, we will arrive in Punta Arenas one day early. This gives us some time to get used to solid ground under our feet again.

On behalf of all here on board, I send, for the last time, our greetings home from a successful, exciting and unforgettable Antarctic expedition.

Julian Gutt

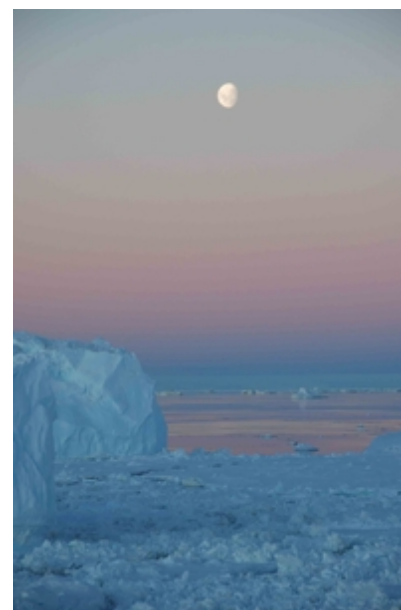


Fig 1: Impressions. True colors – the colors in this photo have not been altered! Julian Gutt, AWI



Fig 2: We say goodbye to Polarstern. She was our home for the past two months. Julian Gutt, AWI